



# Cooperative Snow Survey Program – Historical Perspective

- 1908 Dr. James E. Church invents Mt. Rose Snow Sampler
- 1910 First snow course data recorded in Lake Tahoe Basin
- 1917 Church publishes full account of surveying techniques and funding for California Surveys approved through 1923
- 1923 LADWP begins snow surveys in Owens Basin
- 1929 AB 403 creates California Cooperative Snow Surveys with funding through 1933
- 1930 First published April 1 forecasts
- 1933 "Soil Conservation Service founded and first meeting of the Western Snow Conference "
- 1934 No forecasts made for 1934 & 35 due to lack of funding. Cooperators continue to fund data collection
- 1935 AB 1000 refunded forecasting
- 1939 SCS assumes Federal responsibility for snow surveys
- 1943 Snow Surveys authorized permanently by Legislature and predecessor to Central Sierra Snow Lab established
- 1946 WSC begins publication of proceedings separate from AGU
- 1947 Corps of Engineers introduces radio-isotope snow sensor
- 1952 Central Sierra Snow Lab transferred to USFS
- 1953 Aerial Marker snow depth program began
- 1954 First Annual Coordination Meeting: State Lakes and Mitchell Meadow telemetered snow sensors installed by the Corps
- 1964 First Wilderness Act passed
- 1965 Butyl rubber snow pillow developed and Alpha site established
- 1968 Sacramento Municipal Utility District installed snow sensor at Robb's Power House
- 1973 "Mini" version of Bulletin 120 began publication to speed delivery of forecast information
- 1974 Aerial Marker snow depth program largely terminated
- 1976 Development finished on the "metal wafer" style of snow pillow at Alpha site
- 1980 First GOES snow sensor sites installed at Dana Meadows, Big Meadows and Paradise
- 1982 No Annual Cooperator's Meeting
- 1983 First snow sensors installed in USFS designated wilderness areas
- 1986 CDEC established
- 1987 "Computer generated copy for Bulletin 120 to reduce printing time implemented"
- 1989 The "mini" B120 eliminated
- 1996 Development of the Cosmic snow sensor by Sandia National Labs began
- 1999 Bulletin 120 first available via internet